

Serial No.: 09/979,577

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-24 are pending in the application and are subject to a restriction/election requirement.

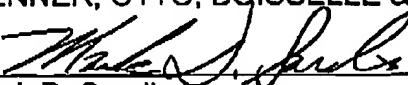
Applicants hereby elect Group I (Claims 1-6) without traverse. Examination of claims 1-6 is respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner feel that a telephone interview would be helpful to facilitate favorable prosecution of the above-identified application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number provided below.

Should a petition for an extension of time be necessary for the timely reply to the outstanding Office Action (or if such a petition has been made and an additional extension is necessary), petition is hereby made and the Commissioner is authorized to charge any fees (including additional claim fees) to Deposit Account No. 18-0988.

Respectfully submitted,

RENNER, OTTO, BOISSELLE & SKLAR, LLP

  
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Mark D. Sarallino  
Reg. No. 34,243

DATE: April 22, 2004

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